



Pennsylvania Gets It Done: Sen. Boscola Welcomes Governor Shapiro to Bethlehem for Economic Development Announcement

Governor Josh Shapiro has made many visits to the Lehigh Valley in his first year as governor. This morning, I proudly stood alongside Governor Josh Shapiro at OraSure Technologies in Bethlehem Township as he delivered on one of his promises by creating the Pennsylvania Economic Development Strategy – which is the first-of-its-kind comprehensive plan to guide the Commonwealth's economic growth in 20 years. Governor Shapiro stated he was inspired by the hard work and partnerships in the Lehigh Valley and has chosen the Lehigh Valley to be a model for Pennsylvania to become a national leader – not just a regional participant – in economic development.

Pennsylvania Gets It Done: Governor Josh

Shapiro Launches First Statewide Economic Development Strategy in Nearly Two Decades

Every budget, I look specifically for what a governor is putting into economic development. It is the one place in our budget where government can actually help grow the economy - Show me where you spend your money, and I will tell you what your priorities are. And for too long, Pennsylvania's economic development policy has not been a priority.

Senator Lisa BoscolaOur "strategy" has been reactive, not proactive. We do a tax credit program here or a tax credit program there, but there is no overall investment plan and certainly no clear vision. That has changed with this Governor and I couldn't be more pleased.

Governor Shapiro continues to change how we do business in Pennsylvania — securing \$1.2 billion in private sector investment, significantly cutting down business licensing time, and rethinking the way government can work at the speed of business in his first year. In that time, Pennsylvania added over 100,000 new jobs, increased economic output, and saw its unemployment rate drop.

Building on that progress, recognizing our strengths, and with a clear-eyed understanding of our challenges, Governor Shapiro's plan sets forth five ambitious goals for our Commonwealth to: Invest in our economic growth to compete, and prioritize economic development investments that capitalize on Pennsylvania's strengths and result in real opportunities for our businesses, communities, and residents.

Continue to make government work at the speed of business, and ensure all companies find an attractive business environment where they can innovate, thrive, and get responses from government on a reasonable timeline.

Open doors of opportunity for all Pennsylvanians, and increase pathways to the workforce that enable every Pennsylvanian to secure a family-sustaining job and have

a meaningful career.

Innovate to win, because innovators become entrepreneurs and new discoveries enable our people and companies to succeed.

Build vibrant and resilient regions, where every community flourishes, we focus on each region's diverse strengths, and localities can provide for the needs of all residents and businesses.

"For too long, Pennsylvania's neighboring states have invested and focused on economic development while our Commonwealth has lacked a targeted game plan and serious investment," said Governor Josh Shapiro. "With this plan, for the first time in nearly two decades, Pennsylvania has a serious economic development strategy that brings together our private and public sectors, our highly skilled workers, and our world-class universities. We're ready to work together to grow our economy, create jobs, foster innovation and economic opportunity, and build vibrant communities – because when we work together, Pennsylvania Gets It Done."

Pennsylvania Gets It DonePennsylvania needs to be in the economic development business. We need to leverage our strengths like our plentiful energy and a strong workforce and

make sure companies looking to relocate know all about them. We also need to work to fix our weaknesses like our overly burdensome permitting process and aging infrastructure, so when a new company says yes, we are ready for them. And when those companies get here, we need to ensure that our workforce is up to the challenge.

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